

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE UNIT: LESSON 4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. In the 1950's, the U.S. government began to offer money to any American Indian person who would leave their reservation and move to a U.S. city so many American Indians lived in urban areas. The American Indian Movement was created in response to the challenges of living in cities.
 - a. Considering what you've learned, do you think they were better off staying on the reservations or moving to the cities? Why?
 - b. Can you think of an alternative plan that would have been fair for American Indian people?
2. The Occupation of Alcatraz was a non-violent protest.
 - a. Why do you think they chose to protest peacefully?
 - i. Would you have chosen a different way to protest?
 1. Why or why not?
3. The Occupation of Alcatraz and the Occupation of Wounded Knee both occurred at places that represent past times of White violence against American Indians. Both occupations are related to a long chain of events, not just a single problem. It has been difficult for American Indians to achieve justice and peace when the U.S. government has such a long history of aggression.
 - a. Given the history of pain and mistrust, name two elements that would have to be present in a peace agreement between American Indians and the U.S. government. Explain
4. The 1976 Senate Judiciary Committee Report claims that the American Indian Movement (AIM) is "committed to violence."
 - a. What do you think the Senators were trying to gain when making these false claims?
 - b. Who do you imagine they are appealing to, and why?
 - c. Consider the perspective of an American Indian person. How do you think they would respond to the report?

Writing Prompt

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American citizens depend on the local, state, and federal government for protection. The AIM movement was in response to American Indians not feeling protected by the federal government. How should people respond when the government does not keep their word? Should they continue to follow laws, protest accordingly or is there another viable solution they should consider? Why? Please use evidence from the readings and documents to support your position.